

A MISSISSIPPI RECORD FOR INTRODUCED DUNG  
BEETLE, *ONTHOPHAGUS TAURUS* SCHREBER  
(COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE)<sup>1</sup>

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ABSTRACT: *Onthophagus taurus* Schreber is recorded from Mississippi. This represents the western-most reported U.S. Locality for this European dung beetle which was first collected in North America in Florida during 1971.

The occurrence of a common European dung beetle, *Onthophagus taurus* Schreber, in North America was first reported by Fincher and Woodruff (1975). The first recorded specimen was collected during August 1971 in Santa Rosa County, Florida. Between 1971 and 1975, additional specimens were collected throughout southwestern Georgia, the Florida panhandle and a few counties in southeastern Alabama. The Santa Rosa County record marked the western limit of the reported range (Fincher and Woodruff, 1975).

On 15 April 1977, I collected 21 specimens of *O. taurus* under cow dung 16 miles southeast of Wiggins, Stone County, Mississippi. This record represents a westward range extension of nearly 150 miles beyond that which was previously known. Fincher and Woodruff (1975) suggested that the species was introduced at an undetermined coastal locality in the Florida panhandle. On the basis of their theory, the Mississippi record indicates that the species is radiating from the point of introduction, rather than moving to the east and north as indicated by the collection records of Fincher and Woodruff (1975).

LITERATURE CITED

- Fincher, G.T. and R.E. Woodruff. 1975. A European dung beetle, *Onthophagus taurus* Schreber, new to the U.S. (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). Coleop. Bull. 29:349-350.

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